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Communists Flock To U.N. Conference

At long last, the major American news media have finally alluded to the Soviet role in the worldwide, anti-nuclear movement. They would have preferred, of course, to ignore the issue, but it was thrust upon them when a major controversy arose over the granting of U.S. visas to hundreds of foreign "peace activists" associated with organizations with Communist ties.

The State Department identified the activists as members of the World Peace Council, its affiliates and other Soviet-dominated organizations that were "seeking to exploit" the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament, which is now in progress. Many of these activists were also planning to attend the anti-nuclear rally which was held in New York last weekend.

Although officials of the World Peace Council (WPC) have made no big secret of the fact that they follow the Kremlin line, reporters such as John M. Goshko of the *Washington Post* did their best to obscure the Soviet role in the organization by referring to the WPC as "allegedly" Communist.

Goshko and others ignored a 1978 CIA report on Soviet propaganda operations which quoted Romesh Chandra, president of the WPC, as saying that his group "positively reacts to all Soviet initiatives in international affairs." The report described the WPC as "the Soviet Union's single most important international front organization."

Also ignored was an April 1982, State Department publication, "World Peace Council: Instrument of Soviet Foreign Policy," which detailed the WPC's adherence to the Soviet line and noted evidence that "the bulk of its expenses are met by the Soviet Union."

Reporters were quick to publicize charges that denying visas to the "peace activists" was McCarthyism and a violation of human rights. In fact, the Administration was simply following the law.

Generally speaking, members of organizations with Communist ties have been denied entry to the U.S. But a 1977 amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act sponsored by former Senator George McGovern almost reversed the procedure, putting the burden on the government to explain why an applicant with links to a Communist group should not be allowed in.

Nevertheless, in connection with the U.N. conference and the anti-nuclear rally, the Justice Department upheld denials of visas in more than 300 cases, and granted waivers of them in only 42. One intelligence expert described the Justice Department decision as "courageous."

Of course, even if visas had been denied in all cases, there would have been no way for the Reagan Administration to prevent the U.N. session and the anti-nuclear rally from assuming a pro-Soviet cast.

The bias of the U.N., a body dominated by the so-called Third World and the Communist countries, is well-known. But the anti-nuclear rally, which, according to the press, was organized by churches and minority groups, was also tilted against the United States.

While the Administration succeeded in limiting foreign Communist involvement in both events, it could not limit domestic Communist involvement. The June 12th rally committee, which organized the protest, included both the Communist party and the U.S. Peace Council, the American branch of the World Peace Council.

The official slogan of the rally endorsed an immediate freeze on nuclear weapons, a proposal warmly embraced by Soviet dictator Leonid Brezhnev. It said, "We are calling for a freeze and reduction of all nuclear weapons and the transfer of funds from military budgets to human needs."

The invited speakers included Randy Forsberg, who proposed the idea of a nuclear weapons freeze, later adopted by Senators Teddy Kennedy (D.-Mass.) and Mark Hatfield (R.-Ore.), and representatives of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador (FDR) and the African National Congress (ANC). The FDR is allied with the Marxist guerrillas trying to take over El Salvador and the ANC is a Soviet-backed terrorist group trying to gain control of South Africa.

The Mobilization for Survival, which includes the Communist Party and the U.S. Peace Council, also played a major role in promoting the demonstration. It took out a full page advertisement in the *New York Times* on May 23 calling on people to "demonstrate for survival." The ad carried the headline, "We Demand a Nuclear-Free World," and listed the following "demands":

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- "Zero Nuclear Weapons. Ban the Neutron Bomb.

- "Stop the Arms Race. Abolish Nuclear Weapons Now.

- "No Military Intervention. U.S. Out of El Salvador.

- "Meet Human Needs. Feed the people, not the war machine.

- "A Nuclear-Free world for everyone."

Two days after the rally, the U.N. missions of the five nuclear powers (U.S., Soviet Union, China, England, France) were supposed to be targeted for "non-violent direct action." But other than that, the Soviet Union's aggressive policies and role in promoting the nuclear arms race were generally ignored.

The New York *Times* ad, for instance, made no call for the Soviet Union to get out of Afghanistan, and made no mention of the fact that the Kremlin has broken several international agreements banning the production and use of chemical weapons.

In a Mobilization for Survival letter that Dr. Benjamin Spock recently sent around the country, the former baby doctor drew attention to the "nuclear menace" and the "black rain" containing radioactive fallout that will "pelt those who escape the blast effects" of a nuclear explosion.

But what about "yellow rain," the deadly mycotoxins that the Soviets and their allies are dropping on innocent civilians and freedom fighters right now in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan? Not a word about it from Dr. Spock.

Last week, however, President Reagan raised the issue in his speech before the British Parliament. It is hoped that he will raise the issue again when he addresses the U.N. disarmament session, probably sometime this week.